things. But it is difficult to tolerate madness... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Whether it is madness or something else, the people of this country will understand... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY): Mr. Narayanasamy, you please react in one or-two sentences. Do not make a speech.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am not making a speech... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): You are converting a Special Mention into a discussion which is not allowed... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, actually, it was the AGP Government which encouraged the militant activities in the State and the present Chief Minister who belongs to the Congress(I) Party is there to bring normalcy in the State and he is using all the machinery for which all the political parties in the State should extend their co-operation... *(Interruptions)*..

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, what is this? This is a Special Mention. But what is the honourable Member speeking about?. ..*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is the position there today. So, the allegations made by the AGP Member here are unwarranted... *(Interruptions)*... and the allegations against the Chief Minister are actually untrue. I request the Central Government to see that when normalcy is restored there, the Army is recalled forthwith.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Now, Mrs. Mira Das.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, just one minute... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): We cannot convert this into a discussion. A small reaction is understandable. Therefore, please sit down... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to say a word on this issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): Yes.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, आसाम की स्थिति... **(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, please allow me also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): From your side, your colleague has already spoken... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: He is also to be allowed, Sir... *(Interruptions)*... He comes from that region.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): In that case, we would be forced to convert this into a discussion. It cannot be allowed. So, now Mrs. Mira Das.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर उनकी पार्टी के स्पोक्समैन बोल चुके हैं । एक मिनट लूंगा, सर ।

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: It you are allowing Mr. Mathur, kindly allow me also... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): There are other parties whose representatives are not here. They also would like to speak. Therefore, please sit down... *(Interruption)*...

SHSI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I am not objecting to your allowing Mr. Mthur. But kindly give us also some time.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मगर ग्रिवेन्स लेकर बैठ रहा हूं । यह ठीक नहीं हुआ । ... **(व्यवधान)**...

Inadequate allocation of kerosene and other petrolleum products by the Central Government to the state of Orissa ..

SHRIMATI MIRA DAS (Orissa): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to but forth the demands of my State.

[Shrimati Mira Das]

Sir, Orissa is one of the unfortunate States in getting less Central assistance and Central help in every sphere. Sir, there is discrimination in the allotment of kerosene and other petroleum products to Orissa. As you all know, in most of the districts in my State, the people there, especially the tribal people, do not have the capacity to pay for electricity and they mostly depend on kerosene. But the allotment of kerosene is very scanty and they are not able to get it for their day-to-day needs.

Sir, the stocks of petroleum products in the depots of oil companies in Orissa are running out since the second half of August. There is erratic supply and there is also artificial scarcity of petroleum products which is increasing in the various districts. It has also been that the depots of the oil companies are receiving reduced quotas. Sir, the State of Orissa mainly depends on the stocks drawn from the stocks at Haldia and vizag. As there is no regular supply of kerosene to the Kalahandi and Koraput districts in the State, they are facing serious problems. All these districts in the State are fed by the oil depots located at Sambalpur and Berhampur and sometemes from the Vizag depot. But the depots at Sambalpur and Berhampur do not have adequate storage capacity. As a longterm measure, storage depots should be set up in Koraput and Kalahandi districts. In the meantime, storage facilities in the existing depots at Sambalpur and Berhampur should be expanded urgently.

Sir, there is no oil terminal in the State of Orissa. It depends on Vizag and Haldia oil terminals. A proposal has been pending with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the construction of an oil terminal at the Paradip port. So, my request to the Government through you, Sir, is that the Government should undertake immediately the construction of an oil terminal at the Paradip port to ensure regular supply of petroleum and petroleum products to the State, specially in the tribal areas. I would like to point out that the Minister from my State is also present here. I request the Minister to look into the matter personally. The proposal is pending with the Ministry, and it should be cleared immediately.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

..[Reported V. S. decision to defer action against India under super-301 clause of ... their trade act for three months ...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of this House to an announcement which appeared in the newspapers this morning regarding the action against India under Super-301. Very kindly, very benevolently, it seems, the US Government, through its Trade Representative, has given India another three months time to set right what they consider to be our delinquency on the trade front.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am raising this point because whenever this point has been raised, it has received support, cutting across party lines, from the entire House. And I have no doubt, Mr. Vice-Chairman, that what is involved here is the political and economic sovereignty of this country. We are all aware, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, that under the US Trade Act, under this provision which is known as Super-301, Special 301, the US authorities have the right to make investigation—and that exactly is the expression. Even in this announcement, the US Trade Representative has said that they have been making investigation into what they consider to be our malpractices. Now negotiatons under this investigation have gone on. And more progress is likely to be made, India should be given three more months' time. Now have we submitted ourselves to this investigation. Mr. Vice-Chairman? This matter has been discussed in this House on a number of occations and an assrance has been given not only by this Government but also by the other Governments which have been in power that we shall not submit to US blackmail. Now I want to know from this Government

whether we have submitted ourselves as an accused party, and we have gone and offered our clarifications and explanations to the US authorities as if we are an accused and we have pleaded with them that they should consider our case they should pardon us and that we shall correct ourselves? Is that the view of this Government?

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I had raised this matter in the House through a Special Mention in the last session. And I have a letter here from the Commerce Minister—it is not so long ago; it is only in the middle of September. And he says that there is no question of taking any position on Intellectual Property Rights in the multilateral negotiations or otherwise which would be contrary to our own best interests. But you are also aware that a number of reports have been appearing in the press that the Government of India has compromised on the question of patent rights, that we are going to go from process patent to product patent, that we are going to give up compulsory licensing right, that we are going to give up various other things which we hold dear to our national interest. I would like to know from the Government what exactly is the position, because these reports which have appeared repeatedly are an indication that we are giving up. Are we giving up? Are we surrendering? We must know about it. Is that the reason why the US representative has given three months more time? You are also aware that multilateral negotiations are going on under the GATT. If multilateral negotiations are going on, why is it that we are submitting to bilateral coercion? I am totally unable to understand. We should clearly tell the US Government that we shall hold no bilateral negotiations, we shall not subject ourselves to any investigation by the US trade representatives under bilateral arrangements specially when multilateral negotiations are going on. If this Government has surrendered to the US and is offering explanations, then I say, please for God's sake, give up that attitude of surrender. Deal with the US as an equal and soverign country and tell them that they have no right to blackmail us like this.

I will not take more time. I will just refer to one thing, a report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of 20th November. This report concerns the proceedings on the Indo-US Business Council. Mr. Kendall who is the Chairman of Pepsico had the temerity, had the gumption to tell us on our soil that India was adopting obstructive role during the GATT talks. This is what he said. What did our Ministers do? Our Finance Minister went, our Commerce Minister went, our Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission went, a host of Government of India Ministers went to this meeting only to say, "you are great and we will try and look into your grievances. We will do all to attract US investment". What the hell are we doing? As an Indian Mr. Vice-Chairman, my blood boiled when I heard of this. I tell you that if this Government or any Government for that matter surrenders our national interest in patent rights, in copyrights, in trade farks then that Government will be resisted, with all the might that this Parliament has. 250 Members of Parliament have already signed a Memorandum, you are aware Mr. Vice-Chairman, and warned the Government, and all the political parties, cutting across party lines—even from the ruling party I have received support whenever I have raised this issue—that we shall all resist any surrender on the part of the Government in this regard and we shall not surrender to the blackmail of the US. I want the House to take note of this want the Government to respond to this and assure us that there will be no surrender of our national interest.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I fully associate with Shri Yashwant Sinha. I share the anxiety expressed by him. Sir, the point is, Government's behaviour is totally shameful. When Ms. Carla Hills was in Delhi, the manner in which she talked, the tone and tenor of her speech even in the press conference and in her talks with our officials and the Ministers was humiliating to the dignity and sovereignty of the country. Now they say that they have extended it by three months. What is this? Is it an ultimatum as if a terrorist gives

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

an ulimatum? Three months itself is an ultimatum to the Indian Government. It is humiliating, insulting. Our Government should stand up firmly. Otherwise, as Mr. Sinha has said, this Government is out to sell the interest, sovereignty and integrity of the country to a foreign Government. They want to bully the country. So, I firmly demand of the Government that they should also be firm as regards US Trade Act and take a firm stand in the coming GATT negotiations. Otherwise, this Government will have to face the music of the wrath of the countrymen.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): While I associate myself with what has been said now, I think let us not compromise on our very integrity, the very Indianness of ours. In a remarkable country like ours today, the Government in its wisdom thinks that governance is to bend backwards to please another force and it is pathetic that we have brought this country to its knees as Mr. Yashwant Sinha has rightly pointed out. After all, it was their Prime Minister, their man who pinpointed *'Mera Bharat Mahaan'*. Let them retain some of that *'mahaanta'* before they sell us out like this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): In fact, there is no necessity for many Members to stand up and react on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): There is no question of surrendering our national interest to the U.S.A. This is only an information from the newspapers. Yesterday, on another issue, the Finance Minister had clearly told the House that there is no question of surrendering our national interest so far as U.S.A. is concerned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): As both sides are aware, there was a memorandum signed by more than 250 Members of Parliament including very senior Members and former Ministers belonging to Treasury Benches. Therefore, there is a unanimity, a consensus, on this particular issue related to protection of the dignity of our country and I am sure that this consensus can prevail and the Government would not compromise the interest of the country.

Now, Mr. Gopalisinh Solanki. He is not here. Then Mr. Ratna Bahadur Rai.

Plight of the Workers working in tea Gardens belonging to the Tea Trading Corporation of India

SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI (West Bengal): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I need not remind this august House the fact that Darjeeling is foremostly famous for its tea with unique flavour throughout the world. Escalating to a new height of glory, Darjeeling tea fetched the price of Rs. 6010 per kg. this year. It is one of the major foreign-exchange earning industries in the country.

At present, there are about 96 small and big tea gardens in Darjeeling. Major part of this is owned by private companies while nearly a dozen tea gardens are run under the State and Central Government undertakings. Though the conditions of most of the tea gardens in the hills are not good due to lack of new plantations, proper cultivation work and effective management coupled with the greed of the private companies for making quick money, tea gardens run by the Central Government through Tea Trading Corporation of India are facing severe crisis. Pashok, Vah-Takur and Pretong are such tea gardens in the hills. Workers are to face regular starvation due to irregular payment of wages. They are deprived of their statutory provisions on one or the other plea. Similarly, no attention is paid for proper care of tea bushes through manuring, pruning, etc. Even during the high production season, sufficient supply of fuels is not ensured to the factories. Different trade unions working in these tea gardens have repeatedly raised their voices against this callous attitude of the TTCI authorities.

It is my humble submission that the Central Government, particularly the